Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 10-32 and amend claims 1-3 and 6-9 as follows. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A radiation image processing apparatus, comprising:

an object region extracting ~~means that~~ section which detects an amount of radiation energy transmitted through ~~a~~ an object representing a body part, forms radiation data including radiation image data of the object and extracts an object region corresponding to the radiation image data of the object from the radiation data ~~where the object is radiographed for the radiation image corresponding to the amount of the detection~~; and

a contour recognizing ~~means~~ section that recognizes a contour of the body part of the object based on the object region extracted by the object region extracting ~~means~~ section, wherein the contour recognizing ~~means~~ section has data of classifying judgment criteria for each of plural different kinds of

predetermined contours, judges the kind of recognized contour to which one of the plural different kinds of contours belongs on the basis of the classifying judgment criteria and provides ~~extracts~~ a feature amount regarding the kind of recognized contour in accordance with the judgment result.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended). The radiation image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the contour recognizing ~~means~~ section ~~uses~~ judges the kind of recognized contour based on a position change of a boundary of the object region.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended). The radiation image processing apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the contour recognizing ~~means~~ section comprises:

a region boundary point detecting ~~means~~ section that detects a boundary of the object region,

a position change amount calculating ~~means~~ section that calculates a position change amount of ~~a~~ the boundary of the object region from plural region boundary points detected by the region boundary point detecting ~~means~~ section, and

a contour specifying ~~means~~ section that specifies ~~a contour~~ the kind of recognized contour from the position change amount

calculated by the position change amount calculating ~~means,~~ section

~~wherein the region boundary point detecting means uses plural different scanning liens which scan successively from one end to the other end of an image with respect to one or both of the horizontal and vertical directions, and extracts a target pixel as a region boundary point when the target pixel existing on each scanning line is included in the object region and an arbitrary neighbor pixel near the target pixel is not included in the object region,~~

~~wherein the position change amount calculating means obtains an amount of position change from another adjoining region boundary point with respect to all or plural arbitrary region boundary points, and~~

~~wherein the contour specifying means specifies a contour by classifying plural position change amounts into plural patterns prepared in advance~~.

Claim 4 (Original). The radiation image processing apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein the position change amount is a distance between neighboring region boundary points.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended). The radiation image processing apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein the position change amount is an amount of ~~a~~ change in coordinates between neighboring region boundary points in one or both of the horizontal and vertical directions.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended). The radiation image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the contour recognizing ~~means~~ section ~~uses~~ judges the kind of recognized contour based on local region widths of the object region.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended). The radiation image processing apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein the contour recognizing ~~means~~ section comprises:

a region boundary point detecting ~~means that~~ section which detects a boundary of the object region,

a region width calculating ~~means that~~ section which calculates local region widths of the object region from plural region boundary points detected by the region boundary point detecting ~~means~~ section, and

a contour specifying ~~means that~~ section which specifies ~~a contour~~ the kind of recognized contour from the region widths calculated by the region width calculating ~~means,~~ section

~~wherein the region boundary point detecting means uses plural different scanning lines which scan successively from one end to the other end of an image with respect to one or both of the horizontal and vertical directions, and extracts a target pixel as a region boundary point, when the target pixel existing on each scanning line is included in the object region and an arbitrary pixel near the target pixel is not included in the object region,~~

~~wherein the region width calculating means calculates a distance between plural region boundary points among the region boundary points existing on the same scanning line as a region width for each of the plural scanning lines, and~~

~~wherein the contour specifying means specifies a contour by classifying the contour into plural patterns prepared in advance, from the region width for each of the plural scanning lines~~.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended). The radiation image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~a~~ the body part ~~or a posture~~ of ~~an~~ the object ~~in a radiation image~~ is recognized by

using ~~a~~ the feature amount obtained in the contour recognizing ~~means~~ section ~~stated above~~.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended). The radiation image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a radiographing orientation judging ~~means for judging~~ section which judges a radiographing orientation for ~~an~~ the object from the contour based on the feature amount.

Claims 10-32 (Cancelled).